MacNAUGHTON, John

January-May 1919 (062)

January 10th, 1919

Professor J. MacNaughton,

707 University Street, Montreal.

Dear Professor MacNaughton:

The salary of the Latin Chair at present is $1000, but last year there was a bonus of $400. At a meeting of the Board of Governors yesterday I asked them whether during the coming year they would not re-arrange the scale of salaries, but they hold to the view that even in July the conditions of living will be such that they do not wish to make a new scale. I am of opinion therefore that this year they will again declare a bonus of 10% as they did last year, and in that case the salary of the Chair for the coming year beginning July 1st, 1919, would be $1000 with a bonus of $100. My own belief is that by the next year there will be a readjustment and that at least this amount may be looked upon as the permanent salary of the Chair. I cannot, however, make any definite promise as to what the scale will be under the new arrangements.

Would you be willing to consider accepting the position on these terms ? That is the same salary that Sutton has, with the exception of what he receives as Principal.

I did not speak to Principal Peterson

about the matter when I was in Montreal, and should prefer you to speak to him first.

I am sure that if you will come to Toronto you will find a warm welcome from a great many people, and our Department of Classics would be one of the most distinguished then on the continent.

With kind regards, I am,

Yours sincerely,

President.

January 15th, 1919

Professor John MacNaughton,

767 University Avenue,

Montreal.

My dear Professor MacNaughton:

I have just come back from Ottawa where I saw

I saw Nicholson. I was greatly shocked on Monday morning to hear about the blow that had fallen upon Sir William. Three weeks ago I spent a delightful day with him and he seemed to be in the best of health, though I understand from Nicholson that he had some physical troubles that might break out almost at any time. I did not think that he was so old as Nicholson says, and certainly when I saw him I thought he had a good many years of service before him, but apparently these are now at an end. Sorry as I am personally not to have opportunities as I so often had in the past of meeting him, and I must say that he was always very kind to me, I cannot think of this as a tragedy, provided he does not linger on maimed too long, because I have always had the feeling myself that I should like to go before I had begun to lose interest. He was still as far as I could judge in his full energy, at least mentally, and we must all of us retain the memory of a highly cultivated clean minded gentleman. I never heard Peterson utter a remark that could not have been spoken in any group as far as its purity of thought went. He really possessed a devout mind

and while others criticised him I heard very little criticism of others from him. Of course he was very reserved.

With regard to yourself we shall of course in the meantime do nothing further. There is no immediate reason for our coming to a decision on this matter. Perhaps in another month you would let me hear from you.

With kind regards, I am,

Yours sincerely,

President.

therefore made up my
mind to accept your offer
and go to Toronto and
take charge of your Depart-
ment of Latin. "Quod
felix faustumque sit
Deum precor" I am
Yours very sincerely
John Macnaughton

Board

UNIVERSITY CLUB OF MONTREAL

Febr. 13th, 1919

Dear President,

Sir William Peterson is improving a good deal and it seems likely he may recover to a certain extent but it is practically certain I am told on the best authority that he can never resume his work as Principal of McGill University. I have

767 University St
Feb. 19th. 1918

Of course I will say nothing about going to Toronto. It will be soon enough if & when I absolutely have to.

My dear Sir Robert,

I am sorry to say I shall not see you at the Lowell Celebration. I was asked to go. But we have lost so much time on account of the Grippe that I really can't afford to lose one hour more with my students till the end of this exceedingly short session. They need all the time one can put on them - their ignorance of the Latin language which I am coming more and more convinced is the beginning of all sound knowledge (at least for the "light and leading" class) is enough to awaken the most energetic compassion in any one who has any capacity for the

appalling view of those "sheep without a shepherd"
who swarm upon this dreadful continent. They
know nothing that the poorest boys in Scotland
used to know. Not long ago I found that
the name of Moloch was a mystery to all
apparently but a few Jews in a large class.
The Bible seems to have gone almost completely.
What on earth are we to do without it? It
means the absence of a really noble literature
as an element to be counted on for the unlearned
mind and heart. And that just at the moment
when at last the Bible has become a book
one looks! No wonder Mary Baker Eddy and Billy
Sunday flourish – and for that matter Woodrow
Wilson and Nick Jane Adams and Henry Ford.
The root trouble is a certain half-deserving
illiteracy – not too strongly so characterised –
Latin is indicated as dead of the core I feel
it in my bones – Sorry I cannot see you
at the Lowell Festival – With kind regards
Yours sincerely
John Macnaughton.

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

Sir William is a good hand
letter. I saw him the other
day. Mind as clear as ever.
Some thickness in speech which is rapidly improving. The prospects
are very favourable for practical recovery and some years
of scholarly work. No chance
at Ephesus the job?

767 University St.
March 3rd. 1919

My dear Sir Robert, a return to fighting wild beasts

I [illegible] you about
a Univ. Principal. I hate to tell him that I am leaving the ship [illegible] think
captaincy is definitely over.

Yours Bowell, Governor-General

for the compliment you have paid
me in electing to what is certainly the
most important Chair, Latin which
in its own is perhaps the most impor-
ant Literary Subject in Canada. I
will with the help of the Power which
does not refuse aid to those who humbly
trust I do my best to justify your
choice.

If I can I will try sometime soon
to take a run up to Toronto and see
my future colleagues especially those in
the Classical Department. I have written

Professor Nichols and will write Hutton
my old friend requesting advice and
information from him. I know both of
these men well and have perfect confid
ence in them and a comfortable assur-
ance that I can work with them in
perfect sympathy. Let me say so that I
look forward with very lively pleasure
to my intercourse with you with
whom I know that I have that
congeniality which can only come from
long devotion to the same studies and
a substantial identity of views as to the
conclusions which emerge from such studies.
With kind regards and many thanks.

I am yours faithfully
John Macnaughton.

767 University St
March 5th 1919

My dear Sir Robert

I have just left Lady Peterson and she is quite anxious that my appointment should if it is at all possible should be kept out of the newspapers for a month or so. She thinks that as Sir William's present state it might be rather a shock to him. He counted quite a bit on my personal loyalty to him and the fact is that if I had not known since the beginning of this Session from Lady Peterson herself that he was not likely to be very long with us in McGill I should scarcely have thought of

making a change. It seems he has not yet quite definitely faced the question whether he must resign or not. And rats leaving the "sinking ship" might be taken by him as a sinister omen and the toll a lugubrious bell. I should hate to give him one moment's pain. With kind Regards I remain

Yours faithfully

John. Macnaughtan.

He felt Vaughan's desertion rather bitterly I can see. He is very capable of poignant emotion though few would think so. In reality he has a most sensitive nature.

May 28th, 1919

Professor John Macnaughton,

767 University Street,

Montreal.

My dear Professor Macnaughton:

I have been very much interested in your letter and am glad to have your opinion of Professor Gilonnell and to know that he is such a promising man. At present, however, it would be quite impossible for us to create a position in Anthropology, though the matter has been often spoken of. The demands at present are insistent in almost every quarter and for the next year or two with our increasing students it will be necessary for us to strengthen the weak spots where for some time we have needed additions to the staff. It is the scientific side of Anthropology which has been most emphasized by our men, though I quite believe that the view of it that you refer to would have an immense educational value in University College.

It is now about eight years since I read Hard Venier's "Religious Experiences of the Roman People" and I was greatly impressed with it. I have recently been trying to get his Virgil as I think that his field is very illuminating for the period I am interested in.

We look much with great pleasure to your visit and look forward with pleasure to your return in the autumn.

What a misfortune for McGill that Sir Auckland Geddes is not coming out till next year.

With kind regards to Mrs. Macnaughton,

I am,

Yours sincerely,

President.